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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308306

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, AF, UR

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: PARTIAL SOVIET WITHDRAWAL

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NOVOSTI CHIEF FALIN TOLD A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER SEPTEMBER 27 THAT "IF YOU GO TO AFGHANISTAN AROUND OCTOBER 6, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE A (SOVIET) MILITARY WITHDRAWAL THERE." WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEE POSTS CAN OBTAIN ABOUT THIS REPORT, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER A PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL COULD BE ORCHESTRATED TO RECEIVE THE KIND OF COVERAGE THE

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SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY HAVE PLANNED FOR IT BY THE OCTOBER 6 DATE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, POSTS SHOULD CHECK WITH JOURNALISTS WHO WOULD BE LIKELY CANDIDATES TO BE INVITED TO AFGHANISTAN TO "WITNESS" THE WITHDRAWAL TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY THE SOVIETS OR ARE PLANNING TO VISIT KABUL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

WHITEHEAD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY EC DATE 7/29/87

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